

Weather Notes

STORM OF APRIL 21, 1955

A violent storm, which may have been a tornado, struck the community of Leavell Woods, 3 miles south of Jackson, Miss., at 5:55 a. m. CST on April 21, 1955. It moved along a path about 100 yards wide from north-northwest to south-southeast. No funnel cloud was seen. The wind caused \$500 damage; no casualties occurred. Rain, which was heaviest after passage of the most intense winds, lasted for 10 to 20 minutes and amounted to 0.14 inch. No hail was reported.

Three large pine trees about 80-100 ft. tall, bare of limbs for about 60 ft. from their bases, were toppled over toward the south-southeast. My neighbor, who was outside taking clothes from the line, saw the trees fall as she attempted to re-enter her home. The door slammed from the inside, locking her out, and she came to our home. She heard no noise from the falling trees although she was within 100 feet of them as they fell, due north of her location at the time. I was in my house within 150 feet of the falling trees. Although

I could see the trees being bent at about a 45° angle to the southward, neither my wife nor I heard the attendant noise that usually accompanies the crash of trees of that size. I do recollect a slight jar which probably resulted when they struck the ground. These trees were well rooted, with large tap roots; wet ground probably contributed to their fall. The top was wrenched out of another tree 100 yards south-southeast of the fallen trees.

Neighbors distant $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on either side of the strongest winds reported hearing a steady roar, which would seem to indicate violent winds aloft. The only explanation that I could offer for the weird fact that surface winds of that strength and crashing trees produced no sound of the magnitude usually associated with such occasions may be inferred from Prof. Abdullah's article in the April 1955 issue of the *Monthly Weather Review*. I have had considerable experience with falling timber in and near logging operations; the crash of a large tree can ordinarily be heard for a considerable distance.

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